Reviewing the functioning of AICTE and UGC

4055. SHRI HARISM RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2827, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st April, 2008 and state:

(a) whether the standard of teaching in universities/colleges is going down day by day; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent lowering of teaching standards in these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. The Government is not aware of any such deterioration of standards of teaching in universities and colleges.

(b) Does not arise.

Serving biscuits in Mid-day Meal

4056. SHRIMATI SHOBHAN ABHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the State Governments have opposed the proposal of the Central Government to serve 'Biscuits' to school students under-the Mid-day Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the State Governments have been asked in selecting the items for the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Biscuit Manufacturers' Welfare Association (BMWA) had submitted a proposal to serve biscuits under the Mid-day Meal Programme, which was opposed by several State Governments. The Central Government has rejected the proposal of BMWA since replacement of a hot, cooked mid- day meal by biscuits would not be in the nutritional interests of children.

(c) and (d) The State Governments select items in accordance with the prescribed nutritional norms and local food habits and taste while preparing menus under the Mid-day Meal Scheme.

Justice delivery mechanism

† 4057. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to evolve a internal mechanism to conduct a study of family worthy to be delivered justice related to different aspects of the delivery of justice;

(b) if so, the details of major components to be included in the evolution of the said mechanism;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that no time frame has been fixed for the above said new scheme and there is no provision for any specific budget for it; and

(d) the progress report of the work done by Government in the above said field?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Provisions of Motor Vehicles Act

†4058. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the section 168 of Motor Vehicles Act the presence of the accused person is not mandatory, in the case of the advocate of the accused person being present in the court or payment of the penalty mentioned in the summon, and the case should be disposed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this provision is mandatory and it should be complied by the courts;

(c) the number of cases, which are punishable under this section, lying pending due to non-compliance of this section; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recognition to same sex marriages

4059. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to legally recognize the same sex marriages, now taking place in India;

(b) how many such cases have come to the notice of Government, by now;

(c) whether any action has been taken against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir. (b)

to (d) No such cases have come to the notice of the Government.

Replacement of old laws

4060. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the laws/rules now prevalent in the country were enforced by the British Government for their own benefit, and not for the Indians;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.